

103-3020-002 0160

RECONSTRUCTED: Sept. 26, 19

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Leavenworth
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

AXA Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

205 South Fifth

CITY OR TOWN:

Leavenworth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

no. 2, Bill Roy

STATE

Kansas 66048

CODE

20

COUNTY:

Leavenworth

CODE

103

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Ruth D. Todd

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

St. Louis

STATE:

Missouri

CODE

24

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Leavenworth County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Leavenworth

STATE

Kansas 66048

CODE

20

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

NONE

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The AXA Building is a highly ornate and decorative two and one-half story red brick commercial building in the Victorian style. The main facade on Fifth Street, which measures 125 feet, is divided into two major sections. These are connected on the ground floor by an imposing semicircular arch which is also the main entrance to the building. The north facade on Delaware Street measures 48 feet in width.

An obvious attempt at symmetry in the building design is evidenced by the series of paired bay windows and the trim of the second floor. All windows are elaborately detailed and small circular pediments are located at the top of each bay window. Above the second story windows is a row of square multi-paned windows, which are symmetrically grouped.

The corners of the building, as well as the window jambs, are quoined with light tan-colored bricks. An ornate cornice with much decorative trim and coupled brackets tops the building.

The first floor of the north facade was considerably altered by the remodeling of the drugstore. The original entrance to the drugstore was set at an angle at the northwest corner of the building. Now there are two entrances--one on the north and the other on the west facade, a portion of which was changed by the remodeling. The sheltering porch extending from the north facade is also an addition. The rest of the exterior seems to be much as it was originally except for the removal of two coupled brackets at the northwest corner, apparently to permit placement of a sign.

The AXA Building with space for five stores and 26 office suites was built as a rental property. The store facilities were on the first floor and fronted on Fifth and Delaware streets, two of Leavenworth's busiest streets. The second floor offices were designed to attract professional men--lawyers, doctors, and dentists.

The building is still used as a rental property and still houses some professional offices. However, recent city directories indicate that many of the office suites are unoccupied.

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# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The AXA Building, originally called the Espenscheid Building, was constructed in 1905 for Charles Espenscheid, a St. Louis investor. Located at the southeast corner of Fifth and Delaware, which was near the center of the Leavenworth business district, the building was designed as a rental property to house several businesses and to provide office space for professional men.

The large commercial structure was designed by William B. Feth, a prominent Leavenworth architect. The general contractor was R. B. Yoakum of Leavenworth who indicated in the bid that his firm could erect the building in four months. Tholen Brothers, also of Leavenworth, was the heating and plumbing contractor. The cost of the building was placed at \$36,000.

The AXA Building is a good example of the Victorian influence on Kansas architecture. Its extremely ornate facade demonstrates the decorative quality of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Bids on Espenscheid Building Are Opened," Leavenworth Daily Times, March 28, 1905.  
 "Building Boom in Leavenworth," Leavenworth Weekly Times, March 23, 1905.  
Hoye's City Directory for Leavenworth, 1905-06 (Kansas City, Mo., Hoye Directory Co., 1906), p. 401.  
Leavenworth Daily Times, December 31, 1905.  
Leavenworth Weekly Times, December 29, 1904; June 29, 1905 and January 4, 1906.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		39 19 04	94 54 54	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey		
ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West 10th		
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka	STATE Kansas 66612	CODE 20

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Nyle H. Miller

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date Sent to NR: 4/19/71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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